

In his opening remarks Mr. Lowrance refers to the department of homeland security and the amateur service responsibility to them. I fail to see the CW connection here. I would think that DHS communications would be digital which is every bit as reliable as CW considering the improvement in technology in recent years.

The leadership issue is also too late in coming here. The UK wasted no time in eliminating the requirement. They beat us to the lead on this one. Regarding the historic value of Morse Code, this is one area where we do agree. I do believe that CW is an important part of the amateur tradition. It should be kept as a requirement for the Amateur extra class but the requirement should remain at 5 wpm where it currently stands. I see no point in taking a step backwards and requiring current amateur extras to be retested on their CW speed.